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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know whether the fares have been reduced for the benefit of the public?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The fares have not been reduced."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government propose to commandeer the City buses which are roadworthy and expedite the process of nationalisation? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Orders have been placed for about 150 vehicles and they are expected to arrive in Madras in October, November and December. Meanwhile negotiations are being carried on with private operators for taking over roadworthy vehicles on some basis. It is not yet known whether the operators have agreed to this arrangement."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" The Government can commandeer buses, if they want."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" It is not proposed to commandeer old, secondhand buses, when we are in a position to order for new vehicles. But we do not want to throw these operators out of the field without some arrangement for taking over such buses as they are willing to hand over to Government at a reasonable price."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know when the Hon. Minister expects to put a few more buses on the road?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" In the month of October, Sir."

Quota of mill cloth allotted to this Province.

* 8 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the quota of mill cloth allotted to this Province is and what quantity of the same is imported from Bombay and other Provinces;

(*b*) whether these quotas are being regularly received;

(*c*) what arrangements have been made for purchase and despatch from importing centres;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that due to civil disturbances in the importing centres the removal of the Madras quota is delayed;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has given notice to arrange for the removal of the quota and that otherwise Madras should be prepared to forego it; and

(*f*) what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure regular movement of quota?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) The average quantity of mill cloth allotted to this Province is 8,966 bales (each bale containing 1,500 yards) per month. Out of this

quantity about 4,597 bales are due from the Bombay surplus area comprising of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Sholapur, 553 bales from other areas in the South Zone, viz., from Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Pondicherry and the remaining 3,816 bales are received from the mills situated in this Province.

"(*b*) There has been some delay on the part of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, in releasing the quotas allotted to the South Zone from the mills or quotaholders of the Bombay surplus area, apparently owing to delays in production. But the quotas actually released to us by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, are being taken up and moved into this Province regularly.

"(*c*) Representative buyers are selected for making purchases of cloth from the Bombay surplus area and despatching it to the various districts under instructions from the office of the Provincial Textile Commissioner. An agent for the Provincial Textile Commissioner is employed at Bombay for *liason* between the representative buyers and the Textile Commissioner at Bombay and to help the representative buyers to make their purchases and move them to this Province promptly.

"(*d*) The removal of the Madras quotas has not been delayed on account of the civil disturbances in the exporting centres of the Bombay surplus area. In fact the imports into Madras have quickened, presumably because other provinces (like Bengal, Bihar and the Punjab) have not been drawing their quotas of cloth regularly from the Bombay surplus area on account of civil disturbances within their respective limits.

"(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

"(*f*) The movement of the cloth is delayed only on account of transport restrictions imposed by the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities from time to time. The Government have urged upon the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities to remove the restrictions wherever necessary and all possible steps are taken by the Government from time to time, in consultation with the Textile Commissioner at Bombay and all other agencies concerned to secure the provincial allocations of cloth promptly and regularly."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Do not the Government consider that there had been considerable delays in the past for the allotted quotas to reach this Province and may I know what actual steps have been taken to see that those quotas are expeditiously despatched to this Province."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"All the steps that have been taken to ensure prompt despatch of the cloth allotted to this Province have already been mentioned in my answer, Sir."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister satisfied that at least for the past few months, the quotas allotted to this Province have been received? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" All the quota has been received, Sir. I have already mentioned the bottle-necks that stand in the way of our promptly getting our quotas to this Province."

Executive officers of Panchayat Boards.

* 9 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Panchayat Boards in the Presidency and the number of panchayats for which executive officers have been appointed;

(*b*) the emoluments of the executive officers before and after the revision of salaries;

(*c*) the qualifications prescribed for the executive officers and the method of recruitment;

(*d*) whether the panchayats are divided into different categories and if so, on what basis such division is made; and

(*e*) what the number of such officers in each grade is?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" (*a*) There are at present about 7,200 panchayat boards in the Presidency. Executive Officers have been appointed for 317 panchayats.

" (*b*) Emoluments of Executive Officers of panchayats :—

	Prior to revision of salaries.	After revision of salaries.
I Grade ..	Rs. 80—5/2—100	80—2½—100
II Grade ..	Rs. 65—3/2—80	65—1½—80
III Grade ..	Rs. 50—3/2—65	50—1½—65

" (*c*) *Qualifications prescribed for Executive Officers of panchayats.*—A candidate for appointment as Executive Officer of a panchayat should be—

(i) a graduate of a University in the case of persons belonging to communities other than the Scheduled Castes;

(ii) a holder of a S.S.L.C. eligible for college courses of study in the case of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes;

(iii) below 30 years on the date of appointment to the service, in the case of a new entrant, and 35 years in the case of a person in the Government, Local Boards or Municipal Service;

(iv) of sound health, active habits and free from bodily defect or infirmity unfitting him from the service; and

(v) of such character and antecedents as to qualify him for the service.